

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An information processing apparatus connectable with an external printer, comprising:  
5 communicating means for communication with said external printer;

notifying means for notifying said external printer of pre-print notification through said communicating means when execution of printing is instructed;

10 generating means for processing, after said notifying means executes the notification, data to be printed to generate print data;

15 sending means for said sending the print data generated by said generating means to said external printer through said communicating means.

2. A system according to Claim 2, wherein said notifying means sends a predetermined command as said notification to said external printer.

20 3. A system according to Claim 1, wherein said notifying means executes its notifying operation by exchange of interface signal with said external printer in said communicating means.

25 4. A printer comprising:

analyzing means for analyzing the signal received from external means;

30 preparation means for executing preparation to be executed prior to printing action when a result of analysis by said analyzing means indicates that signal is instructions of the preparation;

printing means for executing, when a result of analysis by said analyzing means indicates that signal is print data, printing process on the basis of the print data.

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5. A printer according to Claim 4, wherein the signal is a predetermined command.

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6. A printer according to Claim 4, wherein the signal is interface signal exchanged with the external means.

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7. A printer according to Claim 4, wherein said printing means includes an ink jet head for ejecting ink, and wherein said preparation means cleans the ink jet head.

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8. A printer according to Claim 7, wherein said preparation means effects suction recovery of said ink jet head.

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9. A printer according to Claim 4, wherein said printing means includes a fixing device for fixing toner, and said preparation means heats said fixing device.

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10. A printing system including an information processing apparatus and an external printer which are communicably connected through communicating means, comprising:

notifying means for effecting pre-print notification to said external printer through said communicating means when execution of printing is instructed;

generating means for processing, after the pre-print notification of said notifying means, data to be printed to generate print data;

5 sending means for sending the print data generated by said generating means to said external printer through said communicating means, said external printer including:

10 preparation means for executing, in response to pre-print notification provided by said communicating means, preparation to be executed prior to printing action; and

printing means for executing printing process on the basis of print data sent by said sending means.

15 11. A method of processing printing information to be supplied through communicating means to an external printer, said method comprising:

20 a notification step of notifying said external printer of pre-print notification through said communicating means when execution of printing is instructed;

25 a generating step of processing, after the pre-print notification of said notification step, data to be printed to generate print data;

a sending step of sending the print data generated by said generating step to said external printer through said communicating means.

30 12. A printing method comprising:  
an analyzing step of analyzing a signal received from outside;

a preparation step of executing preparation to be executed prior to printing when

the signal is indicative of instructions of preparation prior to the printing as a result of analysis of said analyzing step; and

5 a printing step of execution printing process on the basis of the print data when the signal is indicative of print data.

10 13. A control method for a printing system including a information processing apparatus and an external printer connectable with each other for communication through communicating means, comprising:

15 a notification step of notifying said external printer of pre-print notification through said communicating means when execution of printing is instructed;

a preparation step of executing preparation to be executed prior to printing in said external printer in accordance with the pre-print notification of said notification step;

20 a generating step of processing, after the pre-print notification of said notifying step, data to be printed;

25 a sending step of sending the print data generated by said generating step to said external printer through said communicating means;

a printing step of executing printing process in accordance with print data sent by said sending step.

30 14. A memory medium for storing a control program for operating a computer of an information processing apparatus connected through communicating means with an external printer, wherein said control program comprising:

a code of a notification process of notifying said external printer of pre-print notification through said communicating means when execution of printing is instructed;

5 a code of a generating process of processing, after the pre-print notification of said notifying process, data to be printed to generate print data; and

10 a code of a sending process of sending the print data generated by said generating process to said external printer through said communicating means.